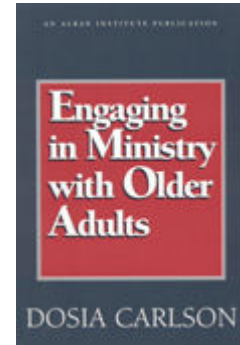


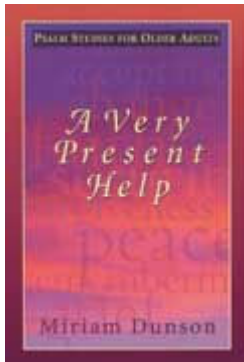
Resources for Ministry with Older Adults

Engaging in Ministry with Older Adults by Dosia Carlson (Alban Institute, 1997)
\$7.20

As America's population ages, congregations are called to minister to today's older adults in new, creative, and engaging ways. Carlson draws on her extensive experience in working with older adults in secular and religious settings. Readers will discover the issues involved in engaging older adults in the ministry of their congregation, as well as in meeting their needs. Explore the possibilities and new directions in "engaging the aging" through examples of what others are doing successfully. Each chapter's "Points to Ponder" helps committees or study groups discover the issues and needs; an extensive appendix lists organizational and print resources.



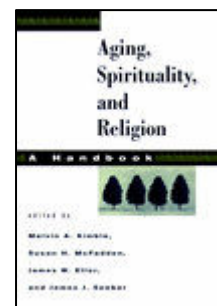
A Very Present Help – Psalm Studies for Older Adults by Miriam Dunson
(Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, 1999) \$19.95



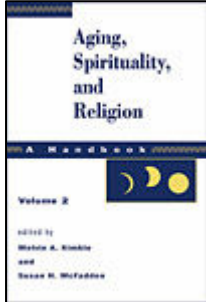
In this helpful study Miriam Dunson selects ten Psalms to explore the personal and spiritual issues of particular concern to older people. She opens avenues for study and reflection by including in each chapter a discussion of the Psalm's background, its meaning, and how it relates to the lives of older persons.

Aging, Spirituality and Religion, A Handbook, Vol. 1 by James W. Ellor, Melvin A. Kimble, Ed., Susan H. McFadden, Ed., James J. Seeber, Ed. (Augustusburg Fortress Press, 1995) \$17.50

This book examines the ways religion and spirituality are experienced by aging persons within an aging society. It aims to encompass the wholeness of the elder's life, including spiritual yearnings that are often shaped by religious faith and practice. Eminent contributors from a variety of disciplines explore this new terrain of an emerging interdisciplinary field. The result is a volume that will function as the standard reference work in the area, an important tool for professionals and students in health care, psychology, spiritual ministry, and gerontology.



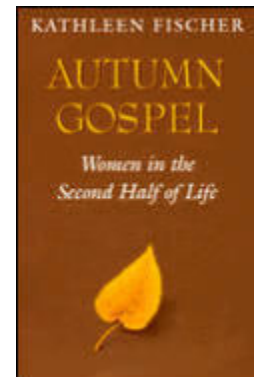
Aging Spirituality and Religion, A Handbook: Vol 2 edited by Melvin A. Kimble, Susan McFadden, and Mee-Ock Park (Augsburg Fortress Press) 2003 \$17.50



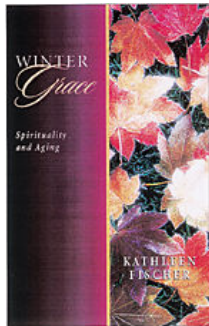
Aging, Spirituality, and Religion, Volume 1 published in 1995 by Fortress Press, provided the sociological, psychological, and theological perspectives for examining the ways in which spirituality and religion are experienced by aging persons in our society. As such, it provided the theoretical foundations for considering aging, spirituality and religion. Volume II picks up where Volume I left off with practical advice and tools for ministry with the aging in a variety of settings. Gerontological and theological perspectives undergird the practical guidance and a final section treats of the unique ethical issues involved in ministry with the aging.

Autumn Gospel: Women in the Second Half of Life by Kathleen Fischer (Paulist Press, 1995) 14.95

The second half of a woman's life offers some of the most complex and spiritually rich decades she will know. This engaging, rich and sensitively written work points to the bright colors of this season in women's lives. It addresses the needs of women looking for ways to explore the spiritual dimensions of midlife, as well as those who counsel them.



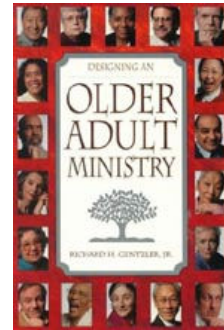
Winter Grace – Aging and Spirituality by Kathleen Fischer (Upper Room Books, 1998) \$12.00



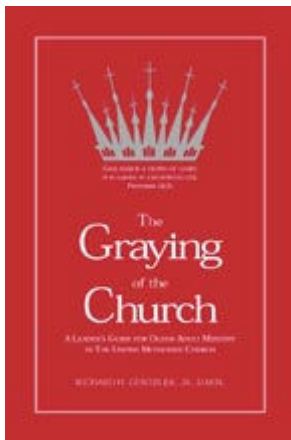
As our society faces an increasingly older population, this remarkable book reveals that aging is a process rich with joy and blessing, not something to dread. Moving readers into the heart of the Christian paradox of death and resurrection, this hopeful book shows how the losses that accompany aging can lead to freedom and new life.

Designing an Older Adult Ministry by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 1999) \$12.00

Building on the success of *Designing a Ministry by, with, and for Older Adults*, author Rick Gentzler gives readers new ways to develop and strengthen ministries with older adults, providing: information about the needs and life issues of older adults; tools to help congregations evaluate their current situation; models for ministry with older adults; and suggested resources.



The Graying of the Church, A Leader's Guide for Older Adult Ministry in The United Methodist Church by Richard H. Gentzler Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 2004) \$12.00

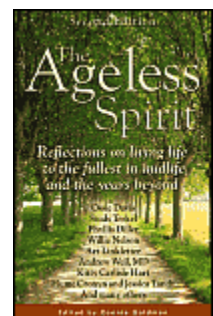


The Graying of the Church is based on extensive research which indicates that what leaders of older adult ministries want most is help in identifying new ministry models, ways to motivate older adults, and general resource information. All of these areas (and more!) are addressed in the book.

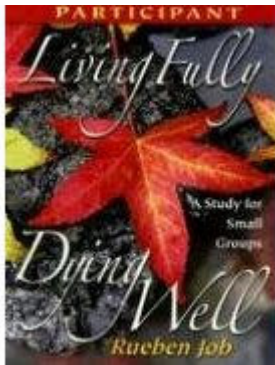
Primary audience: Local church leaders who plan and provide ministry with older adults; clergy; parish nurses; Christian educators; Stephen ministers; nurture, health and welfare teams/committees; evangelism teams/committees.

The Ageless Spirit – Reflections on Living Life to the Fullest in Midlife and the Years Beyond by Connie Goldman, Editor. (Fairview Press, 2004) \$14.95

In this book people over the age of 70 talk about how they remain vital. The result is a treasury of humor and profundity by some of the most fascinating and gifted men and women of our time. In this book people over the age of 70 talk about how they remain vital. The result is a treasury of humor and profundity by some of the most fascinating and gifted men and women of our time.



Living Fully, Dying Well Planning Kit by Reuben Job (Abingdon Press, 2006)
\$69.95



“Our best decisions about life's most important events are seldom made in a time of crisis.” This study is designed to assist us in making careful, wise, and prayerful preparation for meeting life's most important moments. Author Rueben P. Job is a retired United Methodist

Bishop who served as resident Bishop of Iowa for eight years. The kit includes biblical and social perspectives on age and growing older, which practical legal decisions are important for everyone, what happens when we die, and how we can live each day to the fullest--starting today. The disc contains eight sessions, 8-10 minutes in length. Also included are a leader's guide, participants' guide, and three booklets (“Talking to Your Child about Life and Death”, “Talking to Your Family about End-of-Life Plans”, and “Visiting a Friend Who is Facing Death.”)

Sessions include:

- 1. Living Fully
- 2. Theology of Aging
- 3. Our Culture of Aging
- 4. Finding Purpose and Meaning
- 5. Getting It All Together: Practical Decisions
- 6. Dying Well
- 7. What Happens When We Die?
- 8. How Then Shall We Live?

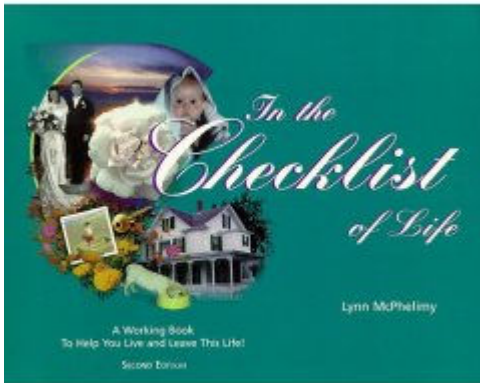
Understanding the Senior Adult: A Tool for Wholistic Ministry by Lois D. Knutson (Alban Institute, 1999) \$9.60



This book begins with a “Parish Spiritual Assessment Tool” the author uses when visiting older adults. The rest of the book is devoted to how to use the assessment tool for visitation and for responding to senior adult needs on a congregational level.

Based on her broad understanding and experience in ministry to senior adults, Knutson has created a practical, comprehensive, and user-friendly assessment format to enrich the one-on-one ministry of pastors and other caregivers in both congregational and institutional settings. The assessment tool comes on CD-ROM disk for ease in adapting to the user’s needs. Knutson also includes guidelines for establishing an advisory committee and other resources for ministry with senior adults. Foreword by Melvin A. Kimble, editor of *Aging, Spirituality, and Religion*.

In the Checklist of Life: A Working Book To Help You Live and Leave This Life! by Lynn McPhelimy (AAIP Publishing Co., 1997) \$13.57



This really is a checklist: of personal information; numbers (banking/credit union/investments/retirement investments/ etc); real estate, important things to know about your home, stuff and the story behind it, hiding places; names of important-to-me people; important dates; a letter to my children; living will; funeral plans; disposition of my body; the funeral service (music, prayers, special requests). Providing this information for one's survivors could be a gift of love.

Remembering Your Story (Revised Edition) Creating Your Own Spiritual Autobiography by Richard L. Morgan (Upper Room Books, 2002) \$12.00

Remembering Your Story invites readers to connect their faith stories with others and with God's story as revealed in scripture. Morgan guides readers to deeper memories of God's presence in all portions of their lives. Individuals and small groups will find this book offers them blessings as they discover God's working throughout their journey.



This new revised edition of Morgan's work reflects his workshops, seminars, and conversations concerning spiritual autobiography. It also more intentionally focuses on faith stories. Morgan includes a chapter titled "Across the Generations," which connects older and younger generations and encourages intergenerational ministries in the church. A separate [leader's guide](#) is available.

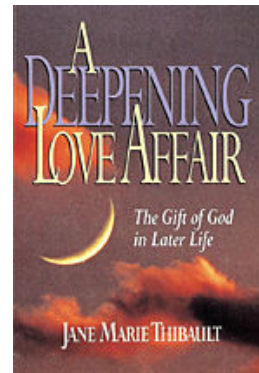
From Age-ing to Sage-ing by Zalman Schacter-Shalomi and Ronald S. Miller
(Warner Books, Inc. 1997) \$14.95



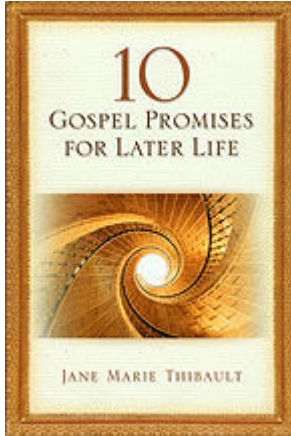
In this revolutionary and compassionate book, Schacter-Shalomi guides older Americans through a spiritual transformation. He teaches readers how to use their life experiences to enrich their elder years, face mortality, repair relationships, develop a regenerative spirit and transmit wisdom to future generations.

A Deepening Love Affair - The Gift of God in Later Life by Jane Marie Thibault (Upper Room Publications, 1993) \$12.00

This book is about being loved by God and about learning how to allow ourselves to receive that love. *A Deepening Love Affair* shows the reader that it is never too late to become aware of God's gifts or to respond to them. It is a book that is written to enrich the spirituality of older adults who are still searching for “something more” to allow them to experience the abundance of life that Christ has promised to us. *A Deepening Love Affair* is an important work for older adults as well as for pastors, families, and health-care providers who seek to serve, love, and care for older adults.



Ten Gospel Promises for Later Life by Jane Marie Thibault (Upper Room Publications, 2005) \$12.00



Is there any good news in the “Good News” for older adults?

We're living longer. In fact, the population of 85(+)-year-olds is the fastest growing segment in the US. Life expectancy is increasing in all developed countries in the world.

With the gift of longer life, though, comes pain. The worst physical ailments and frailties may seem inconsequential when compared to the feelings of emotional and spiritual abandonment that many elders report today.

“I can't relate to Jesus' message any longer. The gospel calls for action. I can't do what Christ wants me to do, and I feel guilty.”

“The Old Testament comforts me more than the gospel. These writings relate to my situation more since I'm old, flat on my back, and utterly dependent on others.”

“The church has no place for old people.”

“I feel that I have outgrown Jesus -- he's for beginners in the spiritual life.”

Out of Thibault's reflection on the relevance of the gospel to later life comes hope.

Web Resources

Center Sage: A resource for leaders of mid-life and older adult ministries is a periodical from The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. A recent (Fall 2005) issue had articles on Faithful Aging; Understanding People in Life's Second Half; Senior Adult Spiritual Group; What Do Seniors Want in a Church; etc.

http://www.gbod.org/coa/articles.asp?act=reader&item_id=16225

American Society on Aging, Forum on Religion, Spirituality, and Aging website.

What is the value and meaning of living to be 70, 80 or 100? What will be the quality of our later years? If these spiritual, religious or philosophical questions are your questions, then the Forum on Religion, Spirituality and Aging (FORSA) is the right constituent group for you. The site offers an extensive list of Recommended Resources.

<http://www.asaging.org/networks/index.cfm?cg=FORSA>

Religion, Aging, and Spirituality: An Online Annotated Bibliography for graceful aging, The Center on Aging of Union-PSCE, Henry C. Simmons, editor. A comprehensive on-line bibliography of resources.

<http://gargoyle.union-psce.edu/aging/index.html>

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www.ucc.org/education/index.html

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